







## The Poet's Corner.

GORDON.  
BY ERIC MACKAY.

(The Independent.)

Out of the forest and far South,  
Where sets the sun on ocean waves,  
There comes, as from the Universe's breast,  
The possible news of Gordon's death,  
And with it a cry, foreboded to die  
In shadows of shame from earth to sky  
Right over the land from North to South,  
From the gate of the West to the morning's

horizon.  
Up from the dark, at dusk of morn,  
Ages the terrible news was born;  
And men and men, with looks of fire  
And blight muttered a word of ice,  
Broke out in prayer on the desolate air  
For the soul of the great man murdered there;  
O, God! forgive us, the wrong we have done!

London, Eng., Feb. 17th, 1885.

## Ladies' Department.

## GRAY HOUSE MYSTERY.

I am one of a large and cheerful family. My father is the doctor in the little town of Langford, and year by year his olive branches have flourished around his table that his comfortable income has narrowed to.

I do not, however, feel sure that people are any less happy for being obliged to cut and contrive a little. My sister, for instance, is the state of health provided the

asylum of the town. One of the great

and the tender-eyed mother would whisper that we should have the new ones as soon as she could manage it. In such a household there was no room for

nothing but the best. Four lives were thoroughly busy ones. Each member of the family, old and young, had his her daily duties. Our parents made us all use

ourselves to the last.

Doctors are obliged to entertain, even if

they are poor, their patients expect it, and

we made a point of giving a dance

every Christmas.

All these parties I had attended year after year, but that took up all my time.

Perhaps it was that I was totally unlike the rest. In a family of brunettes we

had the only blonde, and I was very fair indeed.

Then, as I was walking home one day

I met a young man, who could

by any possibility be him, he said in a

tone of voice, as I listened to his

words, "I am a friend of

Mr. Fairfax."

He left the room accordingly, but soon

re-entered and said, "I am a friend of

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